

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 8 of the specification as follows:

Figure 7 shows another version. The prosthetic work ~~(1)~~ (4) is laid on a roller-shaped structure ~~(2)~~ (5), the distances between the rollers adjusting independently during the firing process. The rollers are housed on suitable suspensions or props, for example in a T- or U-shape.

With small ceramic pre-shaped items, individual or some few supports and/or props are sufficient. With large pre-shaped items, several to very many supports and/or props are required which are optionally housed such that their bearing points can adapt to the shape of the pre-shaped item to be sintered.

Possible versions for group II of the processes according to the invention are reproduced in the following.

- The supporting pins ~~(3)~~ (8) required during the milling of the work piece ~~(1)~~ (6) are left in place after the milling process so that they serve as a stable multipoint support on a level firing base with the same shrinkage behaviour. The supporting device according to the invention consists in this case of the supporting pins ~~(3)~~ (8) and a plane firing base made of material with the same shrinkage behaviour as the prosthetic work, preferably of the same material as the prosthetic work. Particularly preferably, a plane

surface ~~(5)~~ (10) is simultaneously left on the pre-shaped body during the milling process in addition to the holding pins ~~(3)~~ (8), the preform ~~(2)~~ (7) having to be correspondingly large in size. The supporting pins ~~(3)~~ (8) are separated after the sintering in order to obtain the desired pre-shaped body. The device for

Please amend page 9 of the specification as follows:

the process according to the invention is placed on a fire-proof firing base ~~(6)~~ (11) for example using a pourable fill material ~~(4)~~ (9) or suitable support and/or props. Figure 8 is intended to explain this version in more detail.

- Cutting through supporting pins even before the sintering, fitting the remainder of the original preform ~~(2)~~ (13), which after milling corresponds to a negative mould ~~(3)~~ (14) of the prosthetic work, onto a plane firing base ~~(5)~~ (16) using separating powder ~~(4)~~ (15). Coating the inside of the negative mould ~~(3)~~ (14) likewise with separating powder ~~(4)~~ (15) and laying up of the prosthetic work ~~(1)~~ (12) to be fired. The preform remainder ~~(3)~~ (14) serves together with the separating powder ~~(4)~~ (15) as a supporting device according to the invention (Figure 9). The device for the process according to the invention is placed on a fire-proof firing base ~~(6)~~ (17), for example using a pourable fill material ~~(4)~~ (15) or

suitable supports and/or props. Surprisingly, the development of sinter necks within the fill, comprising separating powder, does not take place.

All refractable metals, metal oxides, metal carbides and their mixtures, in particular Al_2O_3 , MgO , ZrO_2 , SiO_2 , cordierite, SiC , WC , B_4C , can be used as separating powders.

Figure 10 shows the firing material (A) resting on two Y-shaped supports (B). Two holding pins (H) are attached to the firing material (A) which are either produced during the shaping process or attached to the firing material after the shaping process. The supporting pins preferably